

FROM THE FIELD.

Pacifica.

It is now several weeks since I wrote anything for the EVANGELIST, but I do not know that any one has suffered by my silence as much as I have. I have heard but little complaint about it at any rate. Now, when I undertake to write a little, so many things rush to the front that I scarcely know which to admit.

Perhaps, first of all, I should say that we on the Pacific coast do not like to see so many advertisements mixed with the moral and religious matter of the EVANGELIST. It reminds us of a patent medicine or soap dealer who gets into a public place and then delivers moral lectures to gain the confidence of the people, so that he can palm off on them his merchandise or nostrums. The editor in charge has told us why it is done and we will not complain, but we still feel that it would be better for all concerned to confine such advertisements to the advertising page or columns of the paper, and not to insert anything that requires a ludicrous if mischievous division of solemn and sacred things. Why not make a proper distinction between that which is intended for this world and this life alone, and that which relates also to the world to come? In a secular paper, such admixture is consistent and endurable; but, in a religious journal, we think it is inconsistent and obnoxious, and we hope that hereafter no such obligations will be assumed.

It may be true, as Bro. P. J. Brown quotes, that, "Wise men sometimes change, but fools never;" but it is equally true that it is foolish for any man to change without having good reasons for so doing. Bro. Brown has given us the reasons for his change of position on the pass-over question, and he, no doubt, thinks them good. I have examined his position and his reasons carefully, I think, but I do not feel their force as he does. As the controversy at present is between him and Bro. Mason, I will say no more on the subject now, but when the proper time comes I will endeavor to tell why my mind is not changed, unless, indeed, it should yet be changed. I believe that we should at all times be ready and anxious to give up any error and to embrace any truth; but we should also be careful never, on any account, to give up a truth, and, in its stead, accept and advocate an error. As this is an important question, I would now only admonish those who take part in its discussion to be careful of each other's faith and feelings. Do not be too personal or too positive in your declarations or arguments, for this makes discussion unpleasant and unprofitable and conviction and conversion unlikely. A truth needs only to be plainly stated in order to be understood, and loving admonition is better than cruel abuse.

As an item of good news, I will notice that our rainy season has set in favorably. Within the last few days we have had about three inches of rainfall, and all persons of all callings are feeling well over it. You could not imagine, unless you have lived in a place like this, what an effect the rain has on all kinds of business, including the work of

Christ. It revives drooping spirits, awakens slumbering natures, arouses latent feelings, opens sealed hearts and purses and excites activity everywhere. No doubt our national Thanksgiving will be the richer in its offerings both to man and God, and we hope that the coming year may afford rich harvests, spiritual, as well as temporal.

Another item of good news is that Bro. H. R. Holsinger and his son-in-law, Bro. S. J. Holsinger, have located at Lathrop, only about twenty miles from our present home. I am glad that he has found a place so near that we can be neighbors, at least, if not co-workers again. I feel like saying that his appearance and work among us revived the memory of former years, labors and experiences. I think I can truly say that I have spent more happy days in Christian fellowship and gospel work with Bro. Holsinger than I have with any other brother, and I am glad to be able to say that on all great issues and weighty questions in church work we were as fully united as brethren can be. I can recall but few cases in which there was any difference worthy of any note. We sat at the same tables: dinner table, editor's table, preacher's table, and communion table, and everywhere there was communion and love. We were together in local councils, in district councils and in general councils, and we were together as brethren indeed. We walked and worked side by side during the stormy and troublesome days of controversy and division in the church; and when division came we stood together as Brethren. These things occurred in the east, and now we, through the providence of God, have been permitted to meet with each other to worship together here in the far west. It did me much good to hear him proclaim the glad tidings when he held his meetings at Lathrop a few months ago, and I was sorry only because I could not be with him more; but now I hope to meet him and his Christian family more frequently and to be benefitted by such a renewal of friendship. I hope they may find Lathrop a pleasant place for a home and field of labor, and may accomplish much good in that place and community.

The Altamont church had a council meeting on the 3rd inst., to elect its local officers for the ensuing year. On account of interferences at the time I could not be there; but although neither Bro. C. E. Doty nor I could be there, under the direction of our deacon, Bro. Wm. Shanks, all the business was satisfactorily attended to. On the same day they elected their Sunday School officers for another year and attended to other important matters. There are but few members there, and, in fact, the congregation is usually small, as it is in a Catholic community; but those who do attend are in earnest, and so the work moves along encouragingly. May the Lord bless his work and his little flock at Altamont. I do not yet know whether I shall serve them as pastor the coming year, but I shall at least do all I can for the cause there.

I had intended to say something about Bro. Mason's and Bro. McFaden's books, and more

about the Ashland University or college, but for want of time I must close for the present by wishing success to all. There has been but little done and there could not be much done on this coast for the college; and yet we feel an interest in it and we hope, because we do believe, that its nearer friends will be its ample supporters. May the Lord abundantly bless his work all along the line is my wish and ardent prayer.

J. W. BEER.

San Joaquin Cal., Nov. 18.

Alpena, Dakota.

The past few weeks have been eventful ones in my experience, by a constant changing of plans and base. My last correspondence was from Marcus, Iowa, where at the time I was conducting a meeting at the close of which we had a communion. All passed off very pleasantly. Our number was increased by two recruits and the members strengthened spiritually. The church at that place is in the pastoral care of Eld. Henry Lehman, who is well qualified to carry the Master's banner in the affray. Although their number is small and they have much opposition, yet they will come out more than victorious because they know him with whom they have to deal and are well acquainted with the Lord of Glory who leadeth them.

Bro. S. T. Groves and family, of Aurelia, Iowa, attended the communion, and in whose company I returned to Aurelia where I once more enjoyed the privileges of the sanctuary with our brethren and sisters of that place.

The constant work of the past few weeks was beginning to tell on me physically, so I determined to take a week's rest.

Several urgent requests had been received from Alpena, Da., where this is being written. So instead of going to Waterloo as was intended, took the train westward, and after a twelve hours' ride to the northwest, landed at this place. On stepping off the train came face to face with Bro. L. C. Stifler, who was just going to take the train for other parts. He remained and we had a delightful visit together.

This is a vast prairie of fertile soil. Looking is cheap here. One man can see as far as two men and a boy could in Iowa. As a place to live in, it is as all places, has its advantages and disadvantages.

Found three members. Bro. and sister Breniman and sister Sadie Miller, daughters of Elder Ben. Miller who is a German Baptist.

I have the courtesies of his fine home while here and feel to thank God for such grand men as he. He is a glorious combination of Methodist fire, progressive sociability and fire, German Baptist water and tenacity, with a big loving heart that says there is room enough in heaven for us all. God bless him and his kind family.

Have held a few meetings, and up to present time have two applicants for baptism with a growing interest.

Brethren, doctrine is a new thing to the people at this place, and they seem to say, "we will hear thee again concerning this matter."

Can not say as to results, God must give the increase.

Wishing all God speed to the home of glory, I am yours for the right.

E. L. HILDEBRAND.

Nov. 22, 1888.

Homer, Ohio.

Our Sabbath School closed on the 11th of November with an entertainment, a treat for the school and those who took part. We were to have closed in October, but on account of the sad and sudden death of Peter, son of our beloved pastor, H. S. Jacobs, it was postponed to the above date. The attendance was good, and was closed with good prospects for the reopening in the spring.

Peter Jacobs was a regular pupil in the school and had prepared to do his part in the entertainment. He had a piece to recite, but the Father above saw proper to call him from earth, and he is resting over there with the loved one.

L. S.

It is worth every man's while to study the important art of living happily. Even the poorest man may by this means extract an increased amount of joy and blessing from life. The world need not be a "vale of tears," unless we ourselves will it to be so. We have the command, to a great extent, over our own lot. At all events our mind is our own possession; we can cherish happy thoughts there; we can regulate and control our tempers and dispositions to a considerable extent; we can educate ourselves, and bring out the better part of our nature, which in most men is allowed to sleep a deep sleep, we can read good books, cherish pure thoughts, and lead lives of peace, temperance, and virtue, so as to secure the respect of good men, and transmit the blessing of a faithful example to our successors.—Samuel Smiles.

A man climbing a high and rugged mountain better not look far ahead it might make him dizzy; but let him follow his guide closely, and every time set his foot firmly and in the right place. In this way must we follow Christ. Let him lead, and we, looking not back not ahead keep close to him and tread in his footsteps.

Avoid multiplicity of business of the world; and in those that are unavoidable, labor for an evenness and tranquility of spirit, that you may be untroubled and smooth in all tempests; for so we shall better tend religion, when we are not torn in pieces with the cares of the world, and seized upon with low affections passions and interests.—Bishop Jeremy Taylor.

To be firm in principle and firm in right-doing, is very different from that petty obstinacy which quibbles over every difference of opinion, and insists on every trifling detail, to the weariness and discomfort of every one. It is a wise man who knows where to be firm and where to be yielding, and the latter knowledge is by no means the least important.

Alas! this time is never the time for self-denial; it is always the next time. Abstinence is so much more pleasant to contemplate upon the other side of indulgence.—Macdonald.

OUR CHURCH.

Several brethren who stood aloof from the Indian Creek, Ind., church, have returned.

The roads have been unusually muddy this fall, and greatly hindered church and revival work.

Bro. A. A. Cober expects to hold a protracted meeting at Milford, Ind., during the holidays.

Bro. J. H. Palmer has been holding a meeting at the Indian Creek church, near Goshen, Ind., lately.

Bro. J. M. Tombaugh informs us that a very pleasant communion was held at Farmersville on the evening of the 17th.

Next week we expect another turn will be made in the College business, and we desire that it will be a favorable one.

Bro. Josiah Keim is having very good success in working for the College. The Brethren are willing to do a good part when they are made willing.

We learn that Sister Julia Wood expects to travel for her health next summer. Her many friends in all branches of the church will be glad to see her.

Bro. D. C. Ullery has been afflicted in a very distressing manner lately, with a disease of the eye. He is now growing better, and we hope he will soon recover.

Bro. Stutzman, Treasurer of the Indiana Home Mission Board has received reports from several churches, already, but many more should be made to meet the wants.

More new Sister's Endeavors have been chartered. This work is going on nicely. By next fall every state conference will have an organized Sister's wing to it. God speed the work.

There is a pressing demand for true ministers of the gospel. Such as behave themselves, know nothing about working up church rings, and preach the gospel as the power of God unto Salvation.

The South Bend church is moving along, and there are good prospects of a successful winter's work. Bro. L. W. Ditch keeps at work all the time and will, in the end, bring in the fruits of the harvest.

Bro. Isaac Kilhefner arrived at Woodland, Michigan, on the 19th and opened a protracted meeting at once. His address will be Woodland, Barry Co., Michigan, until further notice. He is having excellent meetings and is hopeful of good results.

The Brethren in Elkhart, Ind., and vicinity are discussing the feasibility of building a church in the city. There are now a number of members in the town and country around, and the prospect is considered good for a large membership if a church is built.

Since in the state I preached but twice, I am feeling quite out of my element not being connected with the church nor acquainted. I am free from calls. May the brethren remember us in their prayers. I may open fire on the serpent's encampment any time. I am very apt to go as the spirit moves me. Here I am Lord, what wilt thou have me do? I am well pleased with the EVANGELIST.—J. H. Fishel, Rensselaer, Ind.

God requires of us the same qualities that men demand in those to whom they commit great and important interests. They ask diligence, faithfulness, loyalty and the highest exercise of one's powers to produce the best results. God tests us, all and oftentimes, perhaps, when we are least conscious of it. How can we expect him to bestow the higher places on us when we have not met the demands of the lower?